

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

October 22, 2001
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Mosher, Deputy Mayor Marshall, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Degginger, Lee, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Mayor Mosher, who presided. There was no executive session.

2. Introduction of Staff Exchange Participants from Liepaja, Latvia

Judy Louisell, Sister Cities Program Administrator, introduced two staff exchange participants from Liepaja, Latvia. Ineta Stagdales is Project Coordinator of Community Integration and Aigars Stals is Press Relations Manager for the City of Liepaja.

3. Recognition of Bellevue Police Officers for Domestic Violence Work

City Attorney Richard Andrews introduced Susan Irwin, City Prosecutor, and Ketu Shah, an attorney who works with the City in domestic violence prosecution. Ms. Irwin explained the important role of police officers in prosecuting and stopping domestic violence in the community. She noted that police reports are critical in the criminal justice system's handling of domestic violence cases.

Mr. Shah presented an award to Officer Tim Thibert in recognition of his outstanding investigation and written report that ultimately led to the conviction of a domestic violence defendant. The defendant served time in jail and later received mental health treatment. Mr. Shah then presented an award to Detective Autumn Fowler of the Family Services Unit for her excellent work in investigating and documenting domestic violence cases within Bellevue.

4. Oral Communications

Mayor Mosher noted that speakers may not address the Council regarding any quasi-judicial matter except to comment on procedural issues.

- (a) Kathy Gwilym, Acting President of West Bellevue Community Club, expressed residents' complaints regarding the teen nightclub in their neighborhood. Club representatives have spoken with Deputy Mayor Marshall, the City Manager, the Parks Director, the Director of the Boys and Girls Club, the President of Ashwood House Condominium Association, and numerous residents about the situation. Ms. Gwilym asked the Council to protect the health and welfare of citizens. She said attempts at mediation between the City and the condo association four years ago as well as this fall were unsuccessful. She said many neighbors are elderly residents who do not have the energy to complain and/or fear retribution. Ms. Gwilym said it is inappropriate to conduct live concerts in a residential area and that the City is in violation of its own noise ordinance by sponsoring the events. She encouraged the City to relocate the concerts by the beginning of next year.
- (b) Stan Beckelman, Board member of the West Bellevue Community Club, discussed the City-funded study of noise generated by the teen center concerts. Bellevue's noise ordinance permits maximum levels of 55 dB until 10:00 p.m. and 45 dB after 10:00 p.m. The consultant's findings declared that the noise at the property boundary exceeded ordinance limits 100 percent of the time for extended periods measured over several concerts. Further, the peak sound levels inside the teen center frequently exceeded 110 dB, which is significantly above the unsafe level. Mr. Beckelman said the consultant's report recommends possible noise reduction techniques but notes that none of these would satisfy City noise ordinance levels except constructing a new building specifically designed to control low frequency sound. He urged the Council to relocate this City-sponsored activity.
- (c) Robert Sheehan said the West Bellevue Community Club became particularly concerned about the noise from the teen concerts after they were contacted by a distraught woman. After a year of requesting and not receiving any relief from the City, her husband was determined to move to another area whether she wanted to or not. Mr. Sheehan noted that most of the neighbors affected by the noise are senior citizens who are experiencing personal suffering as well as potentially reduced property values. He emphasized that nightclub activities are not appropriate in a residential area.

City Manager Steve Sarkozy said staff members are working closely with the Boys and Girls Club to address the issues. Attempts to find an alternate location have been unsuccessful. He said staff will return to Council within a few weeks to discuss a mitigation plan.

- (d) Chris Hazelman discussed inadequacies at Phantom Lake Elementary School, which is scheduled for renovation. He is concerned about issues raised by Sammamish Community Council regarding the planned renovation and urged the City Council to help resolve the dilemma.
- (e) Richard Brackett recalled that he spoke to the Council two weeks ago about his frustration and inability to get answers from City staff. Since that meeting, he has contacted every Councilmember and none will talk to him. He has not been contacted by the City Manager or Director of Planning and Community Development, despite reassurances that he would be contacted.

Deputy Mayor Marshall clarified that Councilmembers are unable to discuss the matter because it is quasi-judicial. City Manager Steve Sarkozy explained that the placement of cellular equipment will be decided by the City's Hearing Examiner and Councilmembers are not allowed to discuss such quasi-judicial cases outside of the public record. Mr. Sarkozy assured Mr. Brackett that he will hear from staff.

- (f) David Plummer expressed concern about utility rates and excise taxes collected by the City. He urged Council to review the income and expenditure history of the City's utility funds as well as utility rates and excise taxes.

5. Study Session

(a) Council New Initiatives

Mr. Lee proposed sending a letter to King County Executive Ron Sims regarding a County odor control facility. Mr. Degginger discussed residents' concerns regarding problems encountered with the construction of the facility.

Mr. Sarkozy said City staff is coordinating with King County staff to resolve the problems. They continue to discuss possible locations for an additional planned odor control facility. Mr. Sarkozy acknowledged Council's objections to placing the facilities in residential areas. He said the facility does not produce odors or noise but it injects odor-reducing chemicals into the system. Mrs. Marshall is in favor of sending a letter to the County outlining the City's actions and its understanding of the problems to date. Mayor Mosher noted Council consensus to proceed with the letter.

Mr. Lee noted that citizens are interested in what the City is doing in terms of emergency preparedness since the September 11 terrorist attacks. He commended the City's emergency program and encouraged staff to communicate the program's effectiveness to the community.

At Mr. Sarkozy's request, Fire Chief Peter Lucarelli provided a brief update to Council. Chief Lucarelli and Police Chief Jim Montgomery have been involved in regional meetings and emergency planning on almost a daily basis since September 11. Chief Lucarelli said the Eastside HazMat Consortium developed a draft response plan for terrorism approximately 18 months ago. Since September 11, the Consortium has held two regional meetings and recently formed a task force of law enforcement, fire, HazMat, and dispatch personnel to ensure a coordinated response in the event of an emergency. City staff have been in contact with Overlake Hospital regarding emergency preparedness as well.

Chief Montgomery emphasized the regional nature of the planning and response activities. He noted that Bellevue's dispatch center covers the Eastside to the mountains and north to Shoreline, which facilitates this regional approach. He said King County is sponsoring a meeting this week for all communications center operators to encourage the development of consistent procedures.

Dr. Davidson encouraged the City Manager to issue a press release regarding tonight's report in order to respond to the community's concerns.

In response to Mr. Degginger, Chief Montgomery discussed some of the lessons learned in preparation for Y2K and in response to the Nisqually Earthquake. In terms of the region's two-way radio system, he said it is necessary to develop redundant communications networks. He noted that different types of events will have different impacts on regional communications systems.

Mayor Mosher suggested providing this information to residents in "It's Your City." Mr. Lee suggested utilizing BTV as well.

Chief Lucarelli discussed a recent meeting of the local High-Rise Association. After seeing the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York City, high-rise occupants are now reluctant to follow longstanding instructions to exit using the stairs for four floors and to then stay in the building for safe refuge. Chief Lucarelli met with the group, reinforced the importance of continuing to follow these procedures, and emphasized that it is very dangerous to go outside of a burning high-rise building.

Moving on, Mr. Lee proposed inviting corporate leaders to speak to the Council about the local and regional economy. Mr. Sarkozy explained that City staff collect information from multiple sources and incorporate the analysis of a local economist. He said the next financial forecast update to Council is scheduled in two weeks and that it may become necessary to consult additional sources.

Deputy Mayor Marshall commented on an article in the Eastside Journal regarding the potential widening of 148th and 156th Avenues. She clarified that Council has not endorsed plans to widen either arterial. At her request, Transportation Director Goran Sparrman explained the study of a potential capacity project at 152nd Avenue, across SR 520, as part of Bellevue's BROTS (Bel-Red Overlake Transportation Study) agreement with the City of Redmond. Due to the high cost of an overpass, staff is looking at alternatives for potentially widening 148th and 156th Avenues, north of Bel-Red Road only. A separate City study is considering improvements to 148th Avenue. Mr. Sparrman said there are no plans to widen 148th Avenue. Staff is working to identify operational improvements that will maximize the capacity of the existing facility.

In response to Mr. Lee, Mr. Sarkozy said staff is working to resolve noise problems associated with the teen center at the Boys and Girls Club. He will provide a full report to Council soon.

In reference to Mr. Plummer's comments during Oral Communications, Dr. Davidson said he shares these concerns regarding utility rates. Dr. Davidson encouraged a more careful analysis of utility rates, rate projections, and financial reserve levels. He noted that capacity charges are increasing 100 percent.

(b) Human Resources Policy and Labor Agreement Modifications

- (1) Ordinance No. 5325 amending City Code Section 3.79.130B; and amending the authority of the City Manager to modify compensation provisions for employees to include employees covered by labor agreements, and shall be limited to \$50,000 to be consistent with existing levels of signature authority.

- (2) Resolution No. 6610 authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding amending the Bargaining Agreement with the Public, Professional and Office-Clerical Employees and Drivers, Teamsters Local 763, Police Records and Communications to reclassify a bargaining unit member for the duration of an assignment outside the member's current classification.
- (3) Resolution No. 6611 authorizing execution of an amendment to the bargaining agreement with the Public, Professional and Office-Clerical Employees and Drivers, Teamsters Local 763, to adjust four job classifications to 100% of market and to introduce pay for performance to one of those classes.
- (4) Resolution No. 6612 authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding amending the bargaining agreement with IAFF Local 1604 to simplify timekeeping and payroll administration.
- (5) Resolution No. 6613 authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding amending the current labor agreements with the Public, Professional and Office-Clerical Employees and Drivers Teamsters Local 763, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 77, and the International Association of Firefighters Local 1604, respectively, to provide for certain employer paid health insurance premiums for plan year 2002.

Ed Oberg, Deputy City Manager and Interim Human Resources Director, explained that the proposed ordinance and resolutions address changes in the Human Resources Code. Item (2) provides for the reclassification of a single employee to engage in a temporary assignment. Item (3) reflects an adjustment to four job classifications and the introduction of pay for performance for these job classes. Item (4) provides a mechanism to compensate firefighters acting in an out-of-rank status. Item (5) ensures that the cost-sharing arrangement for health insurance premiums will be consistent throughout the City's unrepresented employees and all bargaining units.

Moving back to Item (1), Mr. Oberg said this ordinance will provide the City Manager with the authority to approve amendments to collective bargaining agreements regarding routine labor contract matters up to a fiscal impact of \$50,000 per year, per bargaining unit.

- ➡ Deputy Mayor Marshall moved to approve Resolution Nos. 6610, 6611, 6612, and 6613 and Ordinance No. 5325, and Mr. Creighton seconded the motion.

Mr. Lee said he is not in favor of Ordinance No. 5325. He feels it is too broad and vague and that all modifications to collective bargaining agreements should be subject to City Council approval.

- ➡ As a substitute motion, Mr. Lee moved to approve Resolution Nos. 6610, 6611, 6612, and 6613 as written and to approve Ordinance No. 5325 with an amendment to delete the

phrase “or when this becomes necessary in order to carry out sound personnel management, and to accomplish objectives within the City’s defined commitments” from the second sentence of paragraph B of the ordinance. Mr. Degginger seconded the motion.

- ➡ The substitute motion to approve Resolution Nos. 6610, 6611, 6612, and 6613 as written, and to approve Ordinance No. 5325 with an amendment to delete the phrase “or when this becomes necessary in order to carry out sound personnel management, and to accomplish objectives within the City’s defined commitments” from the second sentence of paragraph B of the ordinance, carried by a vote of 6-1, with Mayor Mosher dissenting.

(c) Regional Issues

Mr. Sarkozy recalled Council direction to staff in March to advocate for significantly expanded transit service in Bellevue and on the Eastside. Transportation Director Goran Sparrman opened the discussion regarding King County Metro’s Six Year Transit Development Plan.

Jim Jacobson, Transit Manager for King County Metro, said the proposed initiatives are intended to provide congestion relief and to enhance mobility. A discussion draft of transit priorities and investments was released for public comment in the spring and staff is currently conducting public outreach to discuss the Six Year Transit Development Plan. Mr. Jacobson noted page 6 of the report, which outlines priorities identified in a 2001 survey of transit riders and non-riders in King County. Survey respondents are interested in direct travel and increased frequency of transit service. Mr. Jacobson said population and employment are expected to continue to grow throughout the county. Therefore, it is important for Metro to be prepared with transit investments.

Mr. Jacobson noted a discussion of system objectives beginning on page 9 of the plan. Descriptions of the four primary initiatives contained in the plan begin on page 13. The first initiative is to increase peak market share. This involves construction of approximately 6,000 new park and ride spaces around the county, half by King County Metro and half by Sound Transit. In addition, 25 percent of new service hours will be invested in commuter services to major activity centers, with the largest number of hours to be invested in service to downtown Bellevue.

Mr. Jacobson said the second key initiative of the transit plan is to improve core services and to initiate bus rapid transit (BRT) service. Core routes provide frequent, two-way, all-day service to urban centers and other activity centers and are generally available at higher service levels seven days a week. BRT is a term used to describe a variety of transit service designs that are intended to achieve higher capacity and faster operation than traditional bus routes. One of three candidate corridors will be selected for BRT implementation by 2005: 1) Aurora Avenue North connecting Shoreline, north Seattle, and downtown Seattle, 2) Pacific Highway South, and 3) NE 8th Street, 156th Avenue NE, and SR 520 connecting Bellevue and Redmond.

Turning to page 27, Mr. Jacobson said the third initiative involves enhanced connections with Sound Transit. Two key Sound Transit investments will trigger these integration efforts: 1) ST

Express Route 522 from Woodinville to either Northgate, the University District, or downtown Seattle, and 2) completion of full service on Sounder commuter rail.

The fourth initiative is termed local flexibility and reserves 25 percent of projected new system service hours to address local subarea priorities. These hours will be divided between the three subareas based on the projected 2010 share of the county's population.

Mr. Jacobson referred to page 49 and reviewed the share of new service hours by subarea for the period 2002 to 2007:

East	40%
South	40%
Seattle/North	20%

He noted pages 51 and 52, which discuss the measurement of outcomes for the plan. After the public outreach phase is completed, the King County Executive will submit a proposal to the King County Council, which will then be forwarded to the Regional Transit Committee early next year for review. The King County Council will ultimately take action on the plan.

Mr. Degginger was pleased with the additional transit service proposed for Bellevue.

Dr. Davidson questioned target service levels compared to actual service levels listed on page 34 of the plan. Mr. Jacobson explained that when the 1996-2001 plan was prepared, staff specifically established targets beyond available funding in order to identify priorities should more money become available. He noted that the 2001 targets actually exceeded funding levels by about 50 percent, which is the reason that many targets were not met. The 2002-2007 plan continues to be aggressive in the establishment of targets.

In response to Dr. Davidson, Mr. Sparrman said a recommendation regarding a downtown Bellevue circulator service will be presented to Council later this year. Dr. Davidson said the establishment of a free-ride zone in downtown Bellevue is a high priority. Dr. Davidson feels there is a better way to handle the distribution of funds and services rather than using the current three-zone system. Mr. Jacobson commented that the plan focuses more on systemwide services and less on specific distributions.

Mr. Lee complimented King County Metro on the four initiatives identified in the six year plan. He spoke to the need for enhanced local service between neighborhoods and activity centers, as well as the need for a downtown circulator service in Bellevue. He feels there are opportunities to privatize transit services in some areas.

Mr. Noble is pleased that the six year transit plan addresses the need for enhanced transit service on the Eastside. He is in favor of expanding the availability of park and ride facilities and expressed general support for the plan.

Mrs. Marshall thanked Mr. Jacobson for his work with Bellevue staff. She suggested drafting a letter to the King County Executive to communicate Council's support of the plan.

Mayor Mosher expressed his support for the plan and thanked staff for their work. Mr. Creighton commented on the success of providing bus service from park and ride lots to University of Washington football games.

At 8:10 p.m., Mayor Mosher declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Sparrman noted that Metro's September service change represents the biggest rollout in history of new transit service hours in East King County. He is pleased that Metro fulfilled its commitment to reinvest the East subarea's "banked" service hours.

Bernard van de Kamp, Transportation Regional Projects Manager, said Metro's September service change adds 79,000 new service hours for the East subarea as well as needed connections between Eastside activity centers. In terms of service frequencies for local service, the added transit service met or exceeded two of eight targets for the morning peak period and met or exceeded six of eight targets for the midday period. For Bellevue to Eastside service, improvements met or exceeded four of six targets for the morning peak period and met or exceeded all six targets for midday service. The September service change partially or fully implements 14 of 18 Bellevue Transit Plan recommendations. Mr. van de Kamp summarized that Eastside transit service is moving in the right direction.

Moving to the next topic, Regional Issues Manager Diane Carlson referred Council to the 2002 State Legislative Agenda and Policy Statement beginning on page 20 of the Regional Issues packet. Based on previous Council discussion, Ms. Carlson noted that the revised draft State Legislative Agenda has been shortened considerably and organized into Tier 1 and Tier 2 priorities. Any items removed from the agenda document have been incorporated into the policy statement.

Deputy Mayor Marshall suggested moving the Growth Management/Concurrency section from Tier 2 to Tier 1. She further suggested reordering topics in the policy statement to match the order of topics in the agenda. She would like the Transportation section of the policy statement to clearly state Bellevue's support for the I-405 preferred alternative. Turning to the Youth and Education Programs section on page 31 of the packet, Mrs. Marshall recommended adding a statement in favor of allowing differential pay rates for teachers in urban areas due to the higher cost of living. She suggested an addition to the section on Growth Management regarding incentives for redevelopment.

Mr. Degginger suggested using the word "Bellevue" instead of "the City" throughout the legislative agenda and policy statement. He recommended revising the Water Supply section to simply state that cities must have the authority to meet the needs of people and fish and that an integrated regional water management approach is the best way to meet these needs. Mr. Degginger agreed with Mrs. Marshall's suggestion to move the Growth Management section to Tier 1. Mr. Degginger proposed new language for the Environmental Issues section stating that Bellevue opposes any effort by the State to pass through responsibility for compliance with federal law to local governments, that Bellevue has a history of promoting stream protection efforts, and that Bellevue will continue to engage in regional and local watershed-based efforts to improve water quality and retain habitats. Mayor Mosher agreed that the key concepts are local control and maintaining flexibility in how local governments comply with standards.

Referring to the Transportation section of the State Legislative Agenda, Mr. Noble suggested adding a sentence to explain why the City supports an increase in the state gas tax. The sentence should reflect Bellevue's recognition of the need to address critical transportation deficiencies and the limitations of existing resources.

Moving to a discussion of the 2002 King County budget, Ms. Carlson introduced Jay Fawcett, Director of Governmental Relations for King County. She said the county is facing an imbalance between operating revenues and ongoing expenses that will necessitate budget reductions over the next three years. The King County Council plans to adopt the budget in November. Proposed reductions are summarized on page 45 of the Regional Issues packet. Ms. Carlson noted that reductions in human services will have the greatest impact on Bellevue.

Mr. Fawcett distributed three handouts providing an overview of the budget. The 2002 King County Executive's proposed budget totals \$2.9 billion. A \$41 million reduction is proposed for the County's Current Expense Fund (similar to the City's General Fund) in 2002. Mr. Fawcett noted this is the largest budget reduction in King County history and the County Executive is committed to avoiding any further cuts in human services.

Dr. Davidson observed that County revenues have increased 8 percent compared to a 3 percent increase in inflation. Mr. Fawcett noted that sales tax and other revenues have decreased. Dr. Davidson requested more specific information regarding property tax collections. He then expressed concern regarding the County Executive's announcement of a temporary 1.2 percent property tax increase related to the impacts of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. Mr. Fawcett said this represents a one-time property tax whose revenues will be placed into a reserve fund. He will provide more specific information to Dr. Davidson on the use of these funds.

In response to Mr. Lee, Mr. Fawcett said reductions in human services are based on framework policies established in 1999 or 2000 by the King County Council. He will provide a copy of the document to Mr. Lee.

Mr. Degginger questioned what specific measures and activities are to be provided by the 1.2 percent property tax for domestic security. Mr. Fawcett said the funds are intended to provide additional security that could be needed in the event of a terrorist attack and, more significantly, to cover military reservist pay. Mr. Degginger noted the County is not required by law to provide the differential military reservist pay for its personnel. He questioned the appropriateness of this initiative in light of the significant overall budget reductions. Mr. Fawcett responded that the County wants to have sufficient reserves in place should military reserve personnel be needed for an extended period of time in the future.

Mr. Degginger noted the County's provision of child care benefits for residents of unincorporated areas of the county but not for residents in incorporated areas. Mr. Fawcett responded that the County is obligated to provide local services to unincorporated area residents.

In response to Mr. Lee, Mr. Fawcett said spending in the Current Expense Fund has increased less than 1 percent, which reflects significant budget reductions. He will provide Mr. Lee with a

comparison of last year's budget and the proposed budget in terms of these funds and the number of full-time employees.

Mrs. Marshall noted that the County receives substantial revenues from the City of Bellevue as well as other cities. She does not understand why all King County taxpayers, regardless of whether they live in incorporated or unincorporated areas, are not allowed to receive benefits and services from the County.

Turning to human services, Mrs. Marshall said she served on the County's Regional Policy Committee a few years ago which worked hard to avoid building a new juvenile jail facility. At that time, the strategy involved implementing youth and family programs to address problems and hopefully intervene in the development of criminal behavior. Now the County is proposing to cut many of the programs aimed at averting crime and violence. Mrs. Marshall feels this is a short-sighted approach that will likely lead to future increased demands on the County criminal justice system.

Mr. Noble concurred with Mrs. Marshall's observation regarding the inequity of access to County services. He shares her concerns regarding budget reductions affecting family and youth programs.

Mr. Fawcett offered to invite a staff member to a future Bellevue Council meeting to more fully discuss the County's human services framework and related policy decisions.

Mr. Creighton questioned the percentages of the Current Expense Fund allocated to local versus regional services. He wondered whether proposed budget cuts will have a greater impact on local services or regional services. He feels the County's role is unclear and noted that although areas of the county continue to be annexed into cities, the County continues to collect revenues and increase spending.

Dr. Davidson expressed concern that the proposed County budget tends to shift responsibility for human services increasingly on city governments. He noted that city governments are operating within the same economic difficulties as the county government, yet they are expected to make up for reductions in county services and programs.

Mr. Degginger requested information regarding changes in the number of County employees compared to annexations and the resulting reduction in the population of unincorporated areas served by the County.

Mr. Sarkozy commented that participants of the City Managers meeting on this same topic expressed frustrations similar to those expressed tonight by the Council. City Managers will be compiling information to be provided to City Councils including historical data and the tracking of key revenues and expenditures.

Mayor Mosher noted the trend to cut back on funding to cities and to continue funding to rural areas, which is counter to the intent of the Growth Management Act. He expressed concern that a regional human services forum has not been reestablished following the elimination of the Human Services Roundtable.

Mrs. Marshall discussed capital deficiencies in the Eastgate area, an unincorporated section of King County surrounded by Bellevue. She would like to see the County provide incentives for cities to annex their Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs), which would reduce long-term costs to the County.

Mr. Noble requested information from Mr. Fawcett regarding County property tax collections for 2000, 2001, and 2002. Mayor Mosher thanked Mr. Fawcett for his presentation.

- (d) 2002 Community Development Block Grant Funding Application
Recommendations
(Council action is scheduled for November 5.)

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran introduced the discussion regarding 2002 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding recommendations as submitted by the Bellevue Human Services Commission. Council action is requested on November 5.

Emily Leslie, Human Services Manager, said CDBG funds are primarily provided for capital projects. A smaller portion of the grant funds is allocated to human services programs and planning and grant administration.

Diana Thompson, Chair of the Human Services Commission, thanked Council for its past dedication of CDBG funds to human services and housing. An estimated \$954,000 in CDBG funds will be available in 2002. Most of the money is targeted for capital projects and a maximum of 15 percent can be used to support agency non-capital expenses. A maximum of 20 percent can be used for City administrative costs associated with the CDBG program. Bellevue's anticipated administrative costs represent 13.7 percent of the total grant. Ms. Thompson referred to the list of proposed projects on pages 5-19 and 5-20 of the Council packet and invited Council questions and discussion.

In response to Mr. Creighton, Ms. Thompson said the recommended funding level for Kinderling Center is lower than the requested amount because the Cities of Redmond and Kirkland provided the balance of the funds.

Deputy Mayor Marshall thanked the Human Services Commission for its time and dedication.

- (e) Voter Initiative for Greenways and Open Space, Habitat Restoration, and Parks Acquisition and Development

Mr. Sarkozy said staff would like to provide some background information related to the idea of presenting a voter initiative for greenways and open space, habitat restoration, and parks acquisition and development. Council previously directed staff to further outline this potential voter initiative and to ask the Environmental Services Commission and the Parks and Community Services Board to identify opportunities for open space preservation, environmental stewardship, and parks development. At that time, a subcommittee was formed to respond to Council's request.

Mr. Foran introduced Jim Bloomfield, Chair of the Environmental Services Commission, and Lesley Stuart, Chair of the Parks and Community Services Board. Additional members of the subcommittee were Jane Archer (Parks Board), Kurt White (Parks Board Vice Chair), and Diane Pottinger (ESC Vice Chair).

Mr. Foran said the purpose of tonight's presentation is to share the findings of the subcommittee's work, identify options for Council consideration, obtain feedback, and confirm direction for the next steps. He said a survey that was to be conducted the week following September 11 was postponed indefinitely to a more appropriate time.

Mr. Bloomfield thanked Council for the opportunity to work on this issue. Ms. Stuart thanked Parks and Utilities Department staff for their hard work and support of the Parks Board and the ESC.

Mr. Bloomfield commented on Bellevue's longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship. Ms. Stuart said the backbone of Bellevue's Parks and Open Space System was built on voter initiatives. Between 1956 and 1989, eight voter initiatives were approved for parks acquisition and development, an average of one every four years. The Parks and Open Space Plan Survey completed in June identified the community's priorities:

- 72 percent expressed strong support for acquiring and preserving open space and habitat for fish and wildlife.
- 70 percent placed a high priority on park acquisitions that complete the parks and open space system.
- 76 percent of respondents indicated they are likely to support a voter initiative.

Mr. Bloomfield acknowledged that the impacts of the September 11 terrorist attacks and recent layoffs in the region will need to be assessed in reference to the feasibility of a voter initiative. He noted unanimous support by the Environmental Services Commission and the Parks Board to proceed with developing a voter initiative incorporating the following five elements:

1. Greenways and open space
2. Habitat restoration
3. Park acquisition
4. Park development
5. Large park projects.

Utilities Director Lloyd Warren said the overall goal is to preserve and enhance Bellevue's quality of life through implementation of the following principles:

- Keep pace with local and regional growth.
- Preserve and enhance Bellevue's open spaces and fish habitat.
- Fulfill the promise of past visionary actions.
- Invest in Bellevue neighborhoods.
- Focus on youth and families.
- Create capacity for new ideas.

Mr. Warren referred Council to page 5-30 of the packet for a list of potential projects.

Mr. Bloomfield said current park bonds will be retired by 2008. The ESC and Parks Board recommend that a voter initiative be packaged as one measure reflecting a balance between parks development and the restoration/preservation of fish habitat. Ms. Stuart said the package should be based on research, outreach, and surveys to identify the community's interests and priorities. The package must be broad enough to make a difference, provide geographic distribution, excite the community, and generate sufficient support for voter approval.

Mr. Foran reviewed the following options:

- A Conduct follow-up research. Further define packages and options for Council consideration. Develop recommendation for timing and dollar amount of bond measure.
- B Continue as stated under option A, and consider a voter initiative in the broader context of other priorities (e.g., performing arts center, City/School partnership, public safety facility).
- C Move forward with a voter initiative on parks and open space at a later date.
- D Provide alternate direction to staff.

Mrs. Marshall expressed enthusiasm for moving forward and commented that it has been too long since the last parks bond measure in 1989. She is interested in more information on Option B and a complete package of potential voter initiatives for all of the items.

Mr. Degginger expressed support for Option A, but acknowledged the importance of understanding the broader context represented by Option B.

Mr. Noble is in favor of the approach recommended by Option B.

Mr. Creighton supports Option B and the need for further study. He encouraged a balance between parks acquisition for future generations and parks development to be enjoyed now.

Mr. Lee expressed support for Option B and the need to balance competing priorities.

Mayor Mosher supports Option B. He feels it is appropriate to act now to protect disappearing open spaces. He encouraged the completion of existing parks and the habitat they provide for humans.

☞ Mrs. Marshall moved to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m., and Mr. Lee seconded the motion.

☞ The motion to extend the meeting carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Mosher thanked staff and Board and Commission members for their proactive work. He noted Council consensus to move forward with Option B.

(f) Overview and Discussion of Utilities Capital Investment and Rate Level Policies

This item was postponed.

6. Discussion of Upcoming Items

- (a) Management Brief responding to Council's questions at the October 15 Study Session regarding Impact Fee Update
(Council action is scheduled for November 19.)

Mr. Sarkozy noted the management brief on page 6-1 of the Council packet in response to Council's questions on October 15 regarding the City's impact fees.

Laurie Gromala, Assistant Transportation Director for Traffic Management, reviewed the uniform increase in single-family impact fees of 11.3 percent. Average costs per trip can vary widely within an impact fee area and they are adjusted every time a project is added to the overall Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP). In 1995, the Transportation Commission became concerned about the variations in single-family impact fees from area to area and recommended an averaging approach.

Mr. Lee expressed an interest in an overall review of the entire impact fee structure. Chris Dreaney, Transportation Development Review Manager, said the issue was taken to the Transportation Commission about a month ago. She noted that an in-depth review of the impact fee structure would require extensive modeling and staff work. The purpose of staff's current effort is to be prepared to update impact fees, along with other City fees, beginning January 1. She proposed further evaluation of impact fees when the next update is prepared in two years, which will coincide with the next update of the TFP.

Dr. Davidson agreed with Mr. Lee's recommendation to review the overall impact fee structure and approach. Councilmembers requested an additional staff briefing and further explanation of the single-family impact fee calculations. Mayor Mosher suggested staff also provide a comparison of the impact fee approach for residential and commercial uses.

At 10:18 p.m., Mayor Mosher declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

kaw